

**PRICE TWOPENCE**

ALLIANCE REGISTER, ELLERED SPENCE.

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00 1st JUNE.

ALEX. OGILVIE, Hon. Secretary.

1/2 acre. A lease, with a right to purchase, and money lent to do building. 138, Pitt-street.

**W**ANTED, to SELL, about 6000 second-hand Brick  
Macquarie-st., opp. Indrummy, next Unitarian Chap.



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## MINES AND MINERS.

## MINERS.

The chief dangers to which our underground workers are exposed are from falls, whether of themselves down shafts, or of the roof or timber supports above them; from eruptions of water; and from fire-damp. M. Simonin has given us a history of their pitched battles and single combats with these enemies, which, for its records of bravery, endurance, and, we may add, unselfishness, surpasses that of War itself. In one respect, these men are especially like soldiers, that they have to stand fire so perpetually; not only the fire-damp, but the perils from their blasting operations and from spontaneous combustion. In the former case, the charge sometimes explodes in the miner's face (it must be admitted he is a careless fellow), or if glycerine instead of gunpowder is used, the tenfold force often produces a tenfold mischief. On the other hand, when they burn slow matches, which would otherwise give them time to escape, a hitch in the machinery above will sometimes, if it be shaft-work, leave them exposed to the results of the explosion, and, as it were, waiting for death.

Spontaneous combustion is produced by the heating of the small coal from the decomposition of the iron pyrites it contains in contact with moisture. The coal soon ignites, and the fire, finding in the coal-seam a natural aliment, spreads through the mine. In such cases, damage is done by the fire, and in some parts of France the fire is even fed for the sake of working the thalassian salts which are given off from the coal, and deposited on the surface of the soil in whitish efflorescences.

The worst neighbours that collieries can have are old workings—perhaps in mines disused for centuries—which become receptacles for rain-fall, and magazines of "dead air." Near Liege is a mine so situated, and upon the boring-tool being inserted in the partition rock, the force of the pent-up water drove it out, and then the flood followed. The old workings were beneath the bed of the Meuse, and the river itself may be said to have been thus turned into the mine. Though pumping machinery was set up at four shafts at once, the water was not kept under until the expiration of seven years, when our indefatigable friends went to work again. This is, however, the most remarkable instance of energetic perseverance in the history of mining.

In 1812, on the 28th of February, a sudden eruption of the water, which had been dammed back in the old workings, surprised the colliers in the mine of Beaujeu, some of whom had just time enough to make their escape by means of the shaft, while others in their hasty flight were drowned; the rest remained close prisoners. The overman, Hubert Goffin, could have gone up in the tub, but would not do so, and he even kept his son, a boy of twelve years of age, near him. Like the captain who sought not to abandon his ship in the moment of danger, he meant to remain in the mine, displaying the most heroic devotion and the noblest resignation. "I will save all my men," he said, "or I will perish with them." Firm at his post, he encouraged and sustained everybody, striving to revive the courage of those who were on the point of yielding.

"Scenes took place such as the pen cannot describe. Two men were engaged in a quarrel, and while Goffin tried to separate them, some one exclaimed, 'Let them fight, we will eat the one who is beaten.' At another time, all these men were seized with despair. The work that Goffin had caused them to begin, with the object of finding, if possible, a way out, having produced disappointments of fire-damp, they cried to their chief, 'Do not close the communication; let us make the light there, and blow ourselves up.' Some exhausted miners seemed to be nearly dying; their comrades, as they afterwards acknowledged, watched for the instant, in order to devour their bodies."

"All the lamps were extinguished for want of air; the weakest and most timid became delirious, complaining that somebody wanted to kill them, by leaving them without food or light. They imperiously demanded something to eat, and inveighed against Goffin. They contended for the candles, which they devoured. Some were creeping along to quench their thirst. 'It seemed,' said they, 'as though we were drinking the blood of our drowned comrades.'"

"However, help from without came to the colliers. The engineer of the mines, a Frenchman, M. Mignot, and some men, who died inspector-general some years ago, and the prefect of Liege, Baron Marchand (Belgium belonged to France at that time), superintended with ardour the work of preservation. 'At the end of five days they were able to rejoin the captives. All were miraculously preserved, twenty-four in number, amongst whom were fifteen boys.' Goffin went out the last. 'If I had abandoned my men,' said he, 'I should never have dared to see daylight.' He was pensioned, and made a member of the Legion of Honour; but continued to work at his calling, and was killed nine years afterwards by an explosion."

Again, in the mines of Charleroi, "the water which had accumulated in the middle of some old workings suddenly broke in where nine miners were at work. Two had time to escape through the shaft; seven others, amongst whom was one named Evard, were carried away by the flood. In the midst of falling ground, and separated from his comrades, Evard gained a sloping road, and thence a gallery communicating with the shaft; but these last were fallen in. The poor collier, with clothes dripping wet, his body covered with wounds, and suffering from the effects of the bad air, called and shouted for a long time, striking the rock with a pick which he had found on the way. No answer was returned to his signal. He then regained the ancient where he had taken shelter in the first instance, and, overcome with fatigue, slept soundly. When he awoke, his clothes were dry. Dying of hunger, he tried to eat the candles which he had with him, but could not overcome the repugnance which this unusual fare occasioned; he, however, quenched his thirst by drinking the water in the mine. Nevertheless, he only drank three times during the whole of his captivity, and remained nearly always either in a drowsy state or buried in the soundest sleep; in addition to this, he did not despair of his ultimate safety."

Nine days after the accident, on the 20th December, the colliery having become accessible, the workmen from without entered to recover the dead bodies. Evard heard them consulting about raising one by placing a rope round his neck, or by fastening it to his shoulders. He shouted again, knocking with his pick. The terrified workmen imagined that he was a ghost, or the bad genius of the mine, of whom there is still a lingering belief in many collieries; notwithstanding which, however, they did not run away, but knocked on their side. Evard replied. They repeated the signal with the like result. Mustering courage to draw near in a body, and hearing the spirit pronounce its own name, and call them by theirs, they did not know what to make of it at all. At length a body of workmen came, who, fortunately for the captive, had brought some drink, and determined to set to work. Scarcely had an opening for escape been made, when Evard, impatient to leave the hole in which he had been confined, threw himself upon the first miner who presented himself. This man, seized by the head with the grasp of despair, thought he would die of fright, and was more firmly convinced than ever that he had to deal with the genius of the mine. The bad air having extinguished all the lamps, the rescue was effected in darkness. Evard, fastened to a rope, was carried to the bottom of the winding shaft, and was sent up the first in the corve, accompanied by the miner, from whom he would not be parted."

This example, strengthened as it is by many others, proves that the preservation of workmen in danger should never be despaired of, whatever length of time has elapsed since their imprisonment beneath the earth.

Unhappily, most wholesale accidents, however, have a very different termination from Evard's. "On the 10th of January, 1862, the beam of the pumping-engine broke at the Hartley Colliery, in the Newcastle coalfield, and in falling through the shaft, killed five out of eight men who were being raised in the cage, the other three being miraculously saved. The mine was in full work, and all the men and boys, 199 in number, were underground. By the shock of the enormous cast-iron beam, weighing more than forty tons, striking the walls in its descent, the shaft was damaged in several places; the rubbish and broken timbers were accumulated at the depth of 138 yards from the surface, and an impenetrable vault closed the only mode of egress by means of which the captives could escape. Two hundred and four colliers, inclusive of the five just mentioned, and forty-three horses, met with their deaths by this accident."

As the massive beam, pump-shears, and timbering had intercepted all communication between the interior of the mine and the outside world, and as the mine was furnished with ventilating furnaces in which a large quantity of fuel was burning, it appears that in the day succeeding the accident the victims died of suffocation. However, they did not experience the horrors of starvation, for a dead pony was found by the side of the miners. Some men, in a moment of extreme despair, tried to force an outlet; timber had been cut and sawed; and the rescuers had heard from outside these desperate attempts, which were, unfortunately, as brief as they were useless. The crowd of relatives and friends who stood around the pit-mouth, finding that the attempts at rescue were not carried on fast enough, in their opinion, threatened to undertake the duties themselves, and boldly demanded the bodies which they were waiting for. But all this impatience was calmed; and then the dead, brought up one by one, were solemnly buried. Was ever a longer or more mournful procession beheld in time of war or pestilence?"

After the Hartley accident, the English Legislature refused to listen to the representations of the colliery owners (though undoubtedly their case was hard, and in some instances the proposed enactment was even ruinous), but compelled every pit-owner to make two outlets to his mine.

We have hitherto confined our observations to collieries; but M. Simonin's mighty volume embraces every description of mining throughout the world. From it we learn how the richest and most valuable mines have in almost all instances been discovered by accident; often by ignorant persons, who knew not the value of their own discovery; and by children. To an Indian hunter is owed the knowledge of the chief American mines, and to a shepherd the silver mines of Peru. This latter, leading his flocks to feed on the slopes of the Andes, lighted a fire to cook his meal, when a pebble heated by the flame attracted his attention by shining like silver. He found a stone massive and weighty, and finally carried it to the mint at Lima, where it was tested, and proved to be good ore. As the Spanish laws, with a view to encourage mine-discovery, make it the property of the finder, the lucky shepherd became a millionaire.

The Sacramento gold-fields were discovered by a Mormon labourer, who worked in a saw-mill. Again, in North Carolina, in 1799, a child picked up a yellow stone, of which his father, a rude settler, thought nothing, but, because it weighed fifteen pounds, used it as a door-fastener for his cabin, for he was so poor that the door had no latch. He showed this stone to one of his few visitors, and he opined it to be a metal of some sort, after which verdict the owner used to exhibit it as a curious rock specimen. Three years afterwards, on going to the market of Lafayette, he took the thing to a goldsmith, and asked fifteen shillings for it, which was very willingly paid. It was in reality a nugget worth \$275. Thus it took four years to find out that the yellow stones in the streams of California were gold.

It is fair to state, however, that science has occasionally predicted where the precious metals have afterwards been found. Sir Roderick Murchison, for instance, after a visit to the auriferous tracts of the Ural Mountains, was struck by their great similarity to some rock specimens from East Australia, and in his address to the Geographical Society, in 1844, prophesied that gold would be found in the latter region. Led by his observations, one Smith, engaged in the iron-works at Berrina, searched for gold, and found it. He came to the Governor of the colony with a nugget in his hand: "See what I have found, said he; 'give me five hundred pounds, and I will show you the place.'" which the Governor declined to do. Again, Macgregor, a Scotch shepherd, used to sell grains and nuggets of gold to the goldsmiths of Sydney, but would never reveal whence he got them.

It is not unusual, however, for discoverers of the precious metals to be prudent; they consider themselves "lucky" in this particular line, and will leave or sell a good "find," in hopes of finding a better. This is what the Spaniards call "the miner's frenzy." Thus, the richest vein of silver in Chili was discovered by Godoy, a hunter in the Andes. Fatigued by the chase, he seated himself, on one occasion, under the shelter of a great rock, and was struck by the colour and brightness of a projecting part. He clipped the stone with a knife, and finding it to be silver, he used his own expression "live

cheese, he took a specimen of it to Copiapo. It was found to be chloride of silver. He agreed to share the profits of his discovery with a rich man, who engaged to work the mine; they came at once to masses of silver; but Godoy sold his interest in the matter for two thousand eight hundred pounds, and started to find more mines; and having wandered about the Andes for some years, died, having met with no more "luck," and without a penny.

Two brothers, named Bolados, discovered near Copiapo, in a crevice opened by some earthquake, an enormous block of silver ore, the cutting, transport, and fusion of which was so easy, that these ignorant men effected it, without assistance; and in less than two years, they realized one hundred and forty thousand pounds. They squandered, however, this enormous sum in gambling and dissipation; and when their mine became suddenly exhausted, they had not even the wretched pittance left on which they had begun.

The history of the discoverers of the famous Allison-Ranch in Nevada, California, is a more satisfactory one. Some poor Irishmen, workers in a neighbouring mine, were so fortunate as to hit upon it. They were so unlettered as not to be able to write their names, but they were excellent fellows. They first built a chapel, to thank God for his favours; they then erected handsome villas, and placed their workmen in exceptional positions; and they went by turns every week to San Francisco to spend their ingots of gold. They retain their simplicity, though with an income as large as that of many princes in Europe, but refuse to furnish any statement of their receipts.

The success of Gould and Curry in their Nevada silver mine is even more astounding; they were so poor that they were at first obliged to barter two-thirds of their claim to a grocer for the necessities of life, notwithstanding which they have realized enormous sums for their own portion. Including the product of 1857, the Gould and Curry Company have got fourteen millions of dollars out of their mine.

The history of the Monte Catini Mine in Tuscany is very curious. M. Porte, its original owner, was half ruined by it, and sold it in 1807. Immediately afterwards, a block of massive ore was found that paid all expenses, and left four thousand pounds net profit. Then for fifteen years the mine produced forty thousand pounds a-year, and still continues to yield largely. M. Porte, who had witnessed this heart-rending spectacle of the immediate success of others where he had laboured in vain for years, soon died of grief. His marble bust adorns the entrance of the principal gallery of Monte Catini, but his heirs are poor.

M. Simonin, who is, we suspect, a man of genius as well as of science, has left no stone unturned in the elucidation of his subject. He has even had a personal experience of the Spanish miners, those who by a havel wand tell you what precious metals lie beneath your feet; but the experiment was not satisfactory.

In the mines of the French Alps, a very curious proceeding is adopted, which was invented by a lady, Madame Rey. She would explore the mountain, holding a piece of string to which was attached a five-franc piece, a piece of lead, or a large copper coin, and pretended that this pendulum vibrated on approaching the vicinity of a lode. She marked with stones the places where this happened, and then connected the point with an imaginary line, saying, "That is the direction of the lode." M. Simonin does not attach much importance to this method—which, indeed, contradicts the law of physics, which asserts that bodies of the same nature mutually repel each other—but he allows that Madame Rey has really discovered hitherto unknown mines.

We must here leave this interesting subject, which comprises no less of usefulness than romance. It was said of Macaulay's History that it was as entertaining as a good novel; but to our author may be well ascribed the credit of being the first man who ever made science as attractive as fiction.—*Chambers' Journal*.

## A PROTEST AGAINST FENIANISM.

THE Roman Catholic Bishop of Sligo, Dr. Gillooly, has published a pastoral in which Fenianism, and the persistent efforts of Conservative journals to divide the priests and the people, are referred to pointedly. Dr. Gillooly says:—

"We must now, dear and reverend brethren, call your attention and that of our spiritual children to efforts, which have been for some time systematically made in many parts of Ireland, to create division between the Catholic clergy and their flocks. It is chiefly through newspapers not only Orange and Protestant, but so-called National and Catholic papers, that this warfare has been waged against the Irish priesthood."

In every issue they are filled with anonymous letters, supposed to be written from various parts of the country, some of them even attributed to priests, and these letters, as well as the leading articles, are directed to the one wicked object—to destroy the respect and obedience of Catholics for their clergy. Lately, even the holy sacrament of marriage has been audaciously caricatured in one of those profane papers, and another of them has copied and circulated throughout Ireland a blasphemous extract from one of the New York organs of Fenianism, in which one of the inspired writers, the Great Apostle of nations, is declared to have been bribed by the Roman Government of his day to preach obedience to temporal powers. It is thus that wicked men, some of whom would fain pass for being as Catholic as the clergy themselves, are labouring to undermine the very foundations of religion, and to destroy all the restraints of conscience, that they may more easily attain the objects of their own criminal ambition. I say by the not at all wicked object—to destroy the respect and obedience of Catholics for their clergy. Lately, even the holy sacrament of marriage has been audaciously caricatured in one of those profane papers, and another of them has copied and circulated throughout Ireland a blasphemous extract from one of the New York organs of Fenianism, in which one of the inspired writers, the Great Apostle of nations, is declared to have been bribed by the Roman Government of his day to preach obedience to temporal powers. 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There is far deeper difficulty in another possible case, one which we wonder has not more frequently occurred, the case of adultery by a woman who is really insane at the time, though the insanity may not be suspected. By every just principle of morals she is innocent, and yet the consequences of her acts may be as injurious to society as if she were really guilty. If the husband is equally burdened, the half-in-half equally robbed, the loss of honour to the family, if not equally great, still, in the excessive unfairness of mankind, very considerable. If the husband condones, as doubtless a just husband would condone, he is helping a fraud; if he does not, he is destroying his wife for a misfortune which may be as external to herself as blindness or a broken leg,—for what, in fact, may be mere hereditary defect of the brain. The case supersedes, we fear, a case in which human beings

At a grand Conservative banquet held on the 24th March, in the great hall of the City Terminus Hotel, in reply to the toast of "The leaders of the Conservative party," Mr. Hardy delivered the following speech:—

Mr. Chairman, my Friends and Gentlemen,—When the chairman, with almost Homeric simplicity, recited the head-lead of the Conservative leaders, I felt he did me only justice in bringing my name in at the close. (No, no.) For I am quite ready and quite willing to serve under any of those illustrious names which have conferred honour on the Conservative party for far longer time than I have been able to serve it, without any blot upon their escutcheon, and with an ability to which I cannot lay claim. I heard with an emotion which to those who only looked on him as a leader at a distance may seem strange, the name of our late illustrious leader, who rests with his forefathers, having lived through a life of honour and chivalrous devotion to his country, and having gained, I believe without exception, the esteem not only of those whom he led in the Conservative party, but of every man who values and honours the independence and honour of Englishmen. (Cheers.) A more true, a more devoted servant of the Crown and of the country never lived than the late Earl of Derby. Gentlemen, we have but his example left us. But his example is before us, and the leaders of the Conservative party, knowing that for twenty years he was honoured by the confidence of the great body of the people, feel that in following him they are also deserving of the confidence which he obtained. I regret that it has fallen to my lot to return thanks for the Conservative party leaders. I regret it more on account of the cause—the indisposition of one who ever since I have known him—ever since I have come into Parliament—I have seen devoted to the cause which he undertook to support. To the leadership of the House of Commons he had been elevated before I reached the assembly, and this, I believe, he has never done anything to dishonour. (Cheers.) A general without an army is but a useless individual; Conservative leaders without followers are almost useless to mankind. In the House of Commons we lead a minority. We are supported by a compact and strong minority. (Hear.) But still it is a minority, and, therefore, it is outside the walls of the House of Commons that the battle of the Conservative party is to be fought. Gentlemen, I presume that in coming to this great assembly, and on being invited to join in the Conservative Association of the City of London, that I am here for some object and for some purpose. (Hear, hear.) I understand that we are here to congratulate the Conservative Association of the City of London—(hear, hear)—on the

success which they achieved at the late general election—(hear, hear)—and on the more important success which they have achieved in the late registration. Gentlemen, you must not be deceived by this success, and you must trust to majority principles. (Hear, hear.) I am far from saying that it is just that the minority should be unrepresented, but it is a far better thing that the minority should be turned into a majority. Gentlemen, it remains to be proved whether you have achieved that great result. Can assure you that you must not look forward either to government by a minority in the city of London or in the government of the country. The government by a minority in the country is a task of such difficulty—is a task of such irksomeness—that it is difficult for a man of honour and integrity to undertake it. (Cheers.) Up to the last election we were under depression, having lost forty years, with the exception of small intervals in minority. There was a small interval during which the Conservative party was in power, and in that period great reforms were made by us. The Conservative party is not and never has been opposed to real reforms. (Cheers.) Still further reforms were undertaken, but circumstances arose which destroyed the Conservative majority, not as is supposed on fiscal questions, but rather upon the manner in which certain great fiscal reforms were carried out. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, may I warn you now that in a great party like ours, the principles upon which it is agreed are not those of fiscal policy. There may be differences of opinion upon such questions without splitting up and destroying the party and warn you that I do not attempt to set up questions of that kind, but rather to attempt to unite men who have in their hearts on which they are agreed other principles of a totally different character, and who will not be led by the consideration of mere fiscal questions to destroy or to disturb those great interests or those great institutions the preservation of which they must have at heart. You came to the last election. It was a dispiriting election. It was an election that turned out differently from many expectations. But it also turned out differently in regard to the expectations of great Liberal parties, as they call themselves, for it was found that in the great centres of the country there was a deep-seated Conservative feeling—(cheers)—not based upon small considerations, not based upon any little temporary local interests, but based upon principles which are deep in men's hearts, upon questions of religion, and State policy connected with religion. And Lancashire—(cheers)—which had been held up to us for years as the great seat of Liberal principles upon every question—Lancashire had not only turned round on what are called Liberal principles, but had turned round upon the embodiment of Liberal principles, upon the very incarnation which has suddenly grown up—(laughter and cheers)—who, after a life of such success and popularity, has been the seat of Liberal principles—(laughter)—upon the Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone. (Loud cheers.) And I think, gentlemen, that if I am an

was made to the great popular consciousness now at this moment, that even that refuge of the destitute—(laughter)—great constituency as it is in numbers and wealth—do you think that Greenwich would again return the rejected of Lancashire? (Laughter.) Do you think that any constituency that values the relations of Church and State would return the rejected of Oxford? (Cheers.) Your chairman has spoken of the seat which I hold as the blue ribbon of the House of Commons—to me the most unexpected thing that has happened to a man in his life—I will return, and I shall be able to show which the wind blew, not thinking of it as I compare in any way with the genius and abilities of Mr. Gladstone, but because it was supposed that I adhered to principles which Mr. Gladstone had professed, but to which he had not continued to adhere. (Cheers.) I have spoken of Lancashire. Can I fall in this assembly to speak of Westminster? Westminster in old times used to be the criterion of the election. It was looked on as the place which was to tell you what was the real opinion in England, and the real opinion of England Mr. W. H. Smith now represents. (Cheers.) I don't speak of Liverpool or of Manchester, where there was a Conservative at the head of the poll. To make Conservative principles prevail under the present regime you must go down among the masses. I do not mean to show you your principles understood by the masses, but to show them that Conservatism does not mean, as will be well known, oppression of the poor—(hear, hear)—that it means justice, loyalty to the Throne, justice to the rich, justice to the poor, freedom to everybody. (Cheers.) There is a well-known saying in the best of books, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Mr. Gladstone stands at the head of one of the greatest majorities that ever has been in the House of Commons. How was it achieved? By a name. By one practical measure and by a name. In 1857 there was an election after the China vote, and the name of Lord Palmerston was freely used. Lord Palmerston came together with a majority of 80. In 1858 a Conservative Government was in power. In 1865 another appeal was made to the people. In 1868 a Conservative Government was in power. Why? Because what they call a great Liberal party is not a cohesive party. (Cheers.) The Liberal party at this moment is composed of a head, a centre, and a tail, and it remains to be seen which will be the strongest part. (Laughter.) At the head of that great party at this moment is a man more eminent in genius and in learning, more acquainted with the literature of his country and with the political history of his country, than probably any man who has ever before held the office that he holds. But it is not simply by reason that men are governed. Suppose such a man full of impulse and prejudice—then, I say, there is no safety in his leadership; and there are those behind him who feel that they know that without the great Conservative party they will not be able to restrain him from the extreme measures which the most violent members of his own party would lead him, and this is the wish of the Conservative party—to unite themselves with these moderate men. (Applause.) We had to give way immediately after the late election. It was due to the Crown and to the country that we should recognise our defeat. I venture to say that in this country, when we went out there was nothing to complain of; there was nothing to complain of in Scotland; nothing to complain of in Ireland. In the first speech which Lord Spencer made, he described the state of things in Ireland as superior to what it had been for years, and the paper just tributed to the Duke of Argyll would tell you that the Duke of Argyll would be endured for a moment that life and property should be endangered in Ireland without their putting forward every possible power of the law, and if the law was not sufficient, altering it so as to secure that which, whatever you may say, is the first principle of government—namely, that life and limb should have due protection? I would speak of the state of Ireland; but during the last few nights we have had from the national members from Ireland a discussion in which they say that Ireland is disaffected in every part, and there is no hope for the country unless this is changed. They tell us that something is to be done. Well, I will wait for something. It is better than nothing. It is just that much (flipping his fingers) better than nothing. I am astonished at the apathy of England at the reckless crime and outrage such as hardly ever occurred in a civilised country. I am astonished at a Great Britain. I find that in 1840 and afterwards, under the Recaptured Estates Act, great numbers of Scotch and English settlers were prevailed upon to go and invest their capital in Ireland, and I am astonished that now England should look on calmly, temperately, as if it were in Kamtschatka (hear, hear), when these men, who for fifteen or twenty years have been employing their energy and their capital in civilising the country, and in imparting a knowledge of agriculture to people who knew nothing of it before—in whom they knew that these men are to be found with the police in their own houses, with misery in their eyes, who are gallant fellows, but of the wives and children of those Englishmen and Scotchmen who have gone over for the improvement of Ireland, that without a word of sympathy from the Government—(cheers)—these poor women sit not knowing whether their protectors will ever come home to them again. The Government know all this. These men, who have been bringing civilisation into Ireland, are denounced by the priest, who, in effect, says, "You must not allow these Scotchmen to be rooted in the soil; you must take away from them the estates in which they have invested their money and divide the soil among the people." But what purpose? In order that the priests' dues may be increased. (Cheers.) My noble friend, Lord Mayo, when he was sent out to India was the scorn of the Liberal press, and how have they been wailing? By an administration in India, and in, and in spite of themselves, to the Government at home. When we come to the legislative duties of the Ministry, I am bound to say they are most industrious; for anything like the whirlwind of legislation they have involved us in no member of Parliament ever met with before. My right hon. friend (Sir J. Pakington) told you what was going on in the army and navy. Some cases of sorrow and misery have come before me, not only in the case of poor artisans, but in the case of most meritorious officers—men who have gone forth to shed their blood for you. The men are cast aside as so much worthless rubbish. And they talk of compensation when they put a man aside for a profession which he has glory and honour, and save him which is the gift of his provision. And now I come to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Last year he did a wonderful feat, for he persuaded the House of Commons that he had made a deficit into a surplus; but when the people come to consider it, they find this hard

Generally cherish an intense antipathy. Nothing encourages such intellectual indolence more naturally than a science—if it can be called a science—in which the established doctrines are few and easily learned by heart, while the practical applications are amazing, complex and difficult. The child may be hopelessly at sea in any question that may present itself, and will escape by a few phrases the mere sound of supply and demand, which he will soon run off as glibly as a phrase of tenth-rate newspaper articles. When children have shown symptoms of awakening intellect they may undoubtedly be led on to take an interest in such matters by a skilful lecturer; and it is exceedingly desirable that opportunities should be afforded them of pursuing such studies as soon as it is practicable. Much more might probably be done in this direction than is at present possible, especially in schools of a comparatively high grade; but the attempt summarily to thrust into immature minds the principles of economic science is likely to end in nothing more than populating a class of common-places which will have about as much effect on the mind of a venerable copy-book aphorism about procrastination being the thief of time. We doubt whether the notoriety of that sentiment has saved much time in practice, and whether a few truisms about supply and demand will in future do much towards diminishing strikes.

(From the Times.)

A LETTER, purporting to have been sent surreptitiously from a convict prison, appeared about a month ago in the *Irishman*, and has recently acquired greater publicity by being copied into a French newspaper, the *Marseillaise*, and thence transferred into the columns of the *Times*.

It consists partly of assertions which have been made over and over again, and examined into and found to be untrue; partly of incidents which derive their only importance from the embellishments of falsehood which have been grafted upon them.

The prisoner Rossa was never, as alleged, "compelled to rest upon his knees and elbows in order to take his food." The utter falsehood of the complaint as to diet and lodging must be proved by all who have ever visited a convict prison. Rossa's diet is that which is given to all prisoners—good in quality and sufficient in quantity. The dietary was framed some years ago on the recommendation of a Medical Board, and Rossa certainly thrives upon it. He works either in an airy, well-lighted room, or else out of doors, at healthy employments. He was for some time remarkable above all the other Fennian prisoners, for his ungovernable temper and his resistance to the ordinary rules of prison discipline. He was so ungovernable that he could not be otherwise restrained, he has been put in irons, a form of restraint found necessary in the case of very few prisoners. The use of a Bible or other religious book is not, as the statement would imply, imposed by the Governor, but is given, in the case of Roman Catholic prisoners, at the discretion of the Roman Catholic priest. O'Donovan Rossa has been treated with indulgence in the number of letters he has been allowed to write. Of course, letters filled with false statements respecting his treatment, as he often was, would not be allowed to be transmitted. It untrue that he was "stripped naked to be searched every day in February, and until May, 1867." He was frequently detected in endeavouring to pass out surreptitious communications, and was in consequence thoroughly searched three

As evidence of the care which is exercised it may be mentioned that the two prisoners of the handle were reported for the carelessness which led to the cart being damaged. The plain truth is that extraordinary pains have been taken throughout the whole period of these men's imprisonment to guard against anything which might even have the appearance of undue severity. The punishments inflicted for offences which could not be overlooked have been as light as was consistent with the necessity of observance of discipline in a convict prison. Most of the Fenian prisoners have so borne themselves as never to have been subjected to any punishment whatever. Others, including several of the most notorious among them, have had no longer than the ordinary pains and forfeiture which might be expected from political prisoners; and if men in such position cannot see the folly of measuring their strength with the authorities of the prison, and applying themselves by force or cunning to violate or evade the rules, they have only themselves to blame when they suffer unnecessary inconvenience and exceptional punishments.

(From the *Saturday Review*.)

The great debates which have occupied the House of Commons during the past fortnight have thrown considerable light, it is to be hoped, on the agrarian needs of Ireland and the educational requirements of England. They have illustrated still more strikingly another thing, the decline of Parliamentary eloquence. Oratory appears to be vanishing almost entirely out of this country. There are only two members of the House of Commons—Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright—who can fairly be ranked among its masters. In the House of Lords there has been, since the death of the late Lord Derby, only one peer who has earned similar distinction, and that is Lord Ellenborough. Competent judges have been disposed to assign him the first place in the competition of both Houses for the prize of Parliamentary eloquence. But Lord Ellenborough declined the struggle. His gifts were better suited to a few occasions than to the ordinary business of the House. He was more inclined on his behalf. He has very rarely spoken out of doors. He has very rarely spoken in the House, and when he has done so, he has seldom selected topics and occasions which fixed general attention. He has exhibited his powers, but he has not run in the race. The refusal of the name of orator to men of so much intellectual power, and of such pre-eminence and efficiency in debate, as Lord Darnley, Mr. Lowe, Lord Salisbury, and Lord Cairnes, may seem capricious and unjust. But in reality it is neither. It is a sign of equality in intellect. It is a sign of knowledge of the subject-matter. The orator is one whose thoughts naturally flow into the moulds formed for them by the feelings and expectations of those who listen. Eloquence is an equation, if one may say so, between the speaker and his hearers. It depends on the balance between them remaining in size and equal adjustment. If the orator is too much in the ascendant he falls into an egotistic monologue which, though for a time it may impress an unwilling yoke upon its audience, will never disengage them, and is sure in the end to be rejected. If the audience impresses itself too prominently upon the orator, he sinks into clap-trap and flattery, and, ceasing to be a voice, becomes an echo. There must be action and reaction, movement and rebound, the play of living mind upon mind. The orator's language, while expressing his own thoughts, must adjust itself with instantaneous accuracy and perfect



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